

Inside Your Third

The Newsletter for the Third Taxing District Electric Department

Your Commission

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TTD and CMEEC AGAINST ISO MERGER

You may have been reading in the newspapers lately about a merger proposal that was submitted to the federal energy regulators by the two companies charged with operating the electric power grids in New York and New England. These Independent System Operators (ISOs) act like air traffic controllers to assure that sufficient generation is brought on-line to reliably meet electric consumer needs. Through our affiliation with the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC), the Third Taxing District was represented in the discussions and negotiations that lead up to the ISO's filing.

A cost benefit study prepared by the ISOs show that by 2005 this proposed merger will end up increasing costs for New England's electric consumers by \$67 million, while New York will save \$277 million.

Another significant concern over this proposed merger stems from the fact that it would create a large, self-perpetuating bureaucracy that will control future decisions over power system expansion and operations decisions. At the same time, this proposed institution would be completely removed from the people most affected by its actions - the electric consumers in this region.

At this point the Third Taxing District Commission along with the other Municipal Boards of the CMEEC cooperative have opposed the current ISO proposal, as has most of the other participants in the New York and New England markets. Although our cost of purchasing electricity from the local ISOs is fixed through 2005 by purchasing, contracts negotiated in our behalf by CMEEC, we will be supporting efforts to assure that any planned proposal doesn't go forward until the proposed merger entity shows they will be accountable to all electric consumers and that real benefits will flow to electric consumers in the Third Taxing District and the rest of New England.

How can you get involved? As always, contact your local State Representatives and State Senators. Tell them to fight in your behalf against this proposed merger. You elected them to listen to you and with elections coming up in November, now is the best time to get their attention. You can find their phone numbers in the blue pages of your phone book.

Upcoming Events

October 21	Commission Meeting 7:00 PM ENIA Library
November 18th	Commission Meeting 7:00 PM ENIA Library
December 18th	Commission Meeting 7:00 PM ENIA Library

East Avenue Neighborhood Association

A local neighborhood advocacy group is gaining momentum in East Norwalk. The group named the East Avenue Neighborhood Association (EANA) is the brainchild of Laurel Lindstrom. Laurel saw a need for this advocacy group while helping put together the Citywide Traffic Summit with the East Norwalk Beautification Committee.

Lindstrom, representing the Advocates for Calm Traffic (ACT) at the Traffic Summit, says she saw more frustration from the neighborhood participants in not knowing how to get an issue heard at City Hall rather than the obvious traffic violations they had witnessed that made them concerned for their safety.

Originally formed to address the problems of her immediate neighborhood along East Avenue just south of the Thruway, Lindstrom continues to expand the scope of the EANA to incorporate the full length of East Avenue and its adjoining streets. Most recently other East Norwalk neighborhoods recognizing the accomplishments of the EANA interacting with City Hall to get problems solved and remedies initiated have attended meetings asking for help.

As far away as residents unhappy with noise and pollution near Roxbury Road at Strawberry Hill to a City Scan of First Street from Gregory Boulevard to the Mill Pond, EANA has lent its ear to their concerns. Ms. Lindstrom on behalf of the EANA attended and supported the residents who spoke at a Public Works committee public hearing about the Second Street law enforcement vs. access to the harbor controversy. EANA opposed restricting access to the water for boaters and monitored the success of the neighborhood representatives in having the newly constructed barriers on Second Street taken down.

If you live in East Norwalk and have a problem you would like addressed or would like to join the EANA to help improve your neighborhood, call Laurel Lindstrom at 855-7668 or visit their website through their association with Advocates for Calm Traffic at CalmTraffic.org.

Things to Remember...

- After the rains we just had be aware of the accessibility to your electric meter. Plants and bushes will begin growing again and the ability of our meter readers to obtain an accurate reading may be impaired. By law, we are obligated to send you an estimated bill along with a notice that says "Meter Unreadable". We will continue to send you this notice and estimated bill until you either make the meter accessible or we determine you are ignoring our requests and turn off your electricity until the meter can be safely read. Any questions - just call our office and a meter reading technician will come out and explain why the meter is deemed unreadable.
- Whether you get behind in your personal finances or you just forget to open the mail, there are times when the electric bill might go unpaid. When that happens you will see a notice on your bill that says if your bill continues to go unpaid, we must shut off your electricity. The notice will give you 13 working days to pay the unpaid balance before your electricity is shut off. After 13 days, our office staff will try to contact you by phone. If they get an answering machine, they will ask that you call them back.
- Amortization payments are available through our Review Officer. If for any reason you can't pay off your bill in fall, the Review Officer can set up an Amortization Schedule that will allow you to make monthly payments towards the unpaid balance while keeping current with your monthly bills.
- Landlords must remember they are ultimately responsible for the electrical use of their tenants. Because we are a municipal utility, we must follow very strict DPUC guidelines and state statutes that govern how we implement collection procedures. Although we can not divulge the payment history of your tenant, we can divulge whether they owe a balance, or not. Land lords are advised to call the Electrical Department office at 866-9271 to see if their tenant, who is about to move, owes a balance on their electrical account that is not sufficiently covered by their deposit.
- The Third Taxing Commission is looking into an annual budget plan to spread the high summer bills throughout the year and the probability of offering a discounted rate for automatic withdrawals.